

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218687

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218687

FOR AMBASSADOR/DCM ONLY FROM LANDE, NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN, BG, US

SUBJECT: BELBAGCO CLAIM

1. THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE BELBAGCO CLAIM AND THE IMPENDING SEPTEMBER 15 DEADLINE IS CAUSING INCREASING CONCERN. VARIOUS AGENCIES POINT OUT THAT THIS COULD BE ALMOST A CLASSIC CASE UNDER FAA SECTION 620C AND THUS COULD ENDANGER CONTINUANCE OF THE ENTIRE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN BANGLADESH. WE KNOW THAT DON BORN HAS TRIED HIS BEST BUT SUGGEST THAT YOU AND JOE TONER MIGHT WISH TO WEIGH IN POINTING OUT THAT THE RISKS INVOLVED IN CONTINUING THE PRESENT BDG POSITION APPEAR TO FAR OUTWEIGH THE COST OF SETTLEMENT. WE NEED A POSITIVE REPLY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15.

2. SORRY WE COULDN'T SEND YOU A FORMAL INSTRUCTION ON THIS SUBJECT BUT FEELING IN CERTAIN OTHER DEPARTMENTS RUNS SO HIGH THAT CLEARANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT AND TIME CONSUMING. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH AID AND IT JOINS IN THE HOPE THAT TONER BECOME INVOLVED AND POINT OUT THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT IMPASSE. ANY REPORT-
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PAGE 02 STATE 218687

ING SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE IN GENERAL DISTRIBUTION MESSAGES.

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